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DCI BRIEFING FOR
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
10:00 A.M., 5 September 1975
Room 1223, Dirksen Building

C O N T E N T S

[redacted] NR

A LOOK AT LATIN AMERICA

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4 September 1975

DCI CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

A LOOK AT LATIN AMERICA

I. Latin America's relationship with the US is in a state of change.

A. Differences over a wide range of economic and political problems continue to provoke friction between the US and Latin America.

B. Failures over the past year or so to get the "new dialogue" on track have discouraged many Latins.

C. The Latins are frustrated by US preoccupation with other areas of the world and resentful of the low priority they think Washington grants them.

D. A number of countries are concerned over the shape of US policy in the post-Vietnam era. Some fear that the US will be less forthcoming in its dealings with Latin America [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)R NR 3.3(b)(1)

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B. Despite the trend toward Latin exclusivity, most Latin governments value the OAS as a pan-American forum and are working to make it a more responsive organization.

1. A special OAS session held in San Jose, Costa Rica this summer granted members "freedom of action" vis-a-vis Cuba, so that the issue of OAS sanctions against Havana has finally been resolved.

V. To round out the Latin America picture, Mr. Chairman, I would like just to touch on three individual situations.

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Argentina

B. Argentina remains beset with internal problems -- especially a basic lack of confidence in the presidency of Juan Peron's widow. We think it almost certain that she will either voluntarily leave office or become a figurehead President.

1. Jose Lopez Rega, her longtime confidant and adviser, has left the country and many of his cronies have been forced out of the government.
2. The economic situation is fast deteriorating, and the terrorist problem persists in spite of some government gains in urban areas.
3. Despite this state of extreme drift, the military, labor, business, and opposition party circles are reluctant to force the issue.

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